

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 ACDA-19

NIC-01 OMB-01 VO-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 047269

R 021031Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5857

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LUXENBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET VIEW OF EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING

REF: STATE 014283

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON AUCCTU INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT HEAD BORIS AVERYANOV JANUARY 31 TO DISCUSS RECENT GENEVA MEETING (REFTEL).

2. EVERYANOV WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH GENEVA MEETING, SAYING IT SEEMED "TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE". CITING PAINSTAKING AND OCCASIONALLY DIFFICULT PREPARATIONS WHICH WENT INTO JANUARY MEETING, HE FOUND TOTAL LACK OF ACRIMONY REMARKABLE AND CHEERING. SPAIN, PORTUGAL, AND GREECE WERE, HE SAID WITHOUT BLUSHING, COUNTRIES WHICH NO ONE CLAIMED HAD LEGITIMATE TRADE UNIONS; OTHERWISE ALL EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS HAD AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND AND IT WAS NOTEWORTHY THAT ONLY ALBANIANS AND FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE ABSENTED THEMSELVES. (AT THIS POINT AVERYANOV REFERRED HUMOROUSLY BUT INSINUATINGLY TO SUBSIDY WHICH HE UNDERSTOOD FORCE OUVRIERE RECEIVED FROM DGB).

3. RE FOLLOW-ON MEETING AT END OF 1974 ON CONDITIONS OF WORK, AVERYANOV EMPHASIZED NEED TO PROCEED WITH GREAT CAUTION AND INDICATED SOVIET DESIRE TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO AVOID OFFENDING WESTERN SENSIBILITIES OR CONFIRMING LATENT SUSPICIONS RE SOVIET MOTIVES. SOVIETS DID NOT WANT TO, AS HE PUT IT, "THROW ANY DEAD CATS OVER THE FENCE". NEED, RATHER, WAS FOR SIMPLE, PRACTICAL, NON-POLEMICAL COOPERATION ON LARGE NUMBER OF SUBJECTS OF COMMON EAST-WEST INTEREST. AUCCTU UNDERSTOOD THAT FINNS HAD OFFERED HELSINKI AS SITE FOR NEXT MEETING. HE ASSERTED THAT WHETHER IT TOOK PLACE UNDER ILO AUSPICES OR NOT WAS OF NO CONCERN TO SOVIETS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, AVERYANOV ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ENERGY WAS POSSIBLE AREA FOR COOPERATION BUT RELATED THIS TO LARGER QUESTION OF COOPERATION AGAINST "MONOPOLIES". ARAB ASPECT OF PROBLEM WOULD DISAPPEAR "AS SOON AS GOLDA MEIR ORDERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HER TROOPS TO WITHDRAW".

5. RE BILATERAL US-SOVIET MATTERS, AVERYANOV AND HIS DEPUTY BEGAN THE MEETING WITH GOOD-HUMORED NEEDLING RE US POLICY OF REFUSING VISAS TO SOVIET TRADE UNION DELEGATIONS AND CAME BACK TO SUBJECT FREQUENTLY. THEY SEEMED WELL AWARE OF STRONGLY-HELD VIEWS OF AFL-CIO LEADERSHIP ON SUBJECT. WHEN THEY REFERRED TO GEORGE MEANY IN THIS CONTEXT, EMBOFF RAISED QUESTION OF ANTI-MEANY

ARTICLES AND CARTOONS IN SOVIET PRESS; AVERYANOV ASSERTED THAT HE HAD SQUELCHED AN ATTEMPT TO GET TRADE UNION DAILY TRUD'S NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT SIZNEV TO WRITE AN ANTI-MEANY ARTICLE ("AFTER ALL, SIZNEV IS LIVING THERE, HE HAS TO GET ALONG")--SO ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN IN MOSCOW INSTEAD. AVERYANOV REITERATED THAT AUCCTU IS PATIENT BUT NEVERTHELESS HAS STRONG DESIRE FOR MORE CONTACTS WITH U.S. UNIONS.

6. COMMENT: AVERYANOV COMES ACROSS AS EBULLIENT, LIKABLE MAN AND A SHREWDSTATICIAN WHO KNOWS HOW WESTERNERS LOOK AT THINGS. HE SPENT FOUR YEARS IN LONDON AS SOVIET LABOR ATTACHE AND APPARENTLY ENJOYS EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN TUC. IN FACT EMBOFF DETECTED AN ELEMENT OF ANGLOPHLIA WHICH SEEMED TO EXTEND TO OTHER ANGLOPHONE COUNTRIES AS WELL.DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EAST WEST TRADE, MEETINGS, LABOR UNIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW01618
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740260/aaaacdup.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 014283
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <30 APR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET VIEW OF EAST-WEST TRADE UNION MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, UR, US, ILO, AUCCTU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005